The Church in 3D
Ephesians 2:19-22

Introduction

In Ephesians 2, Paul gives us a description of the church without using the word.

In many ways the church was a new concept.

- Jesus said, “I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18
- The word ekklesia could refer to any public assembly. It was given new meaning by Jesus and the Apostles.
- It means called out ones. We have been called out of the world to live for him.

Paul gives us three pictures of what the church should be like in verses 19-22.

I. The church is a kingdom. Verse 19

“We are fellow citizens with God’s people.”

In the ancient world, citizenship was highly prized.

But what Paul is talking about here is something even greater. “Our citizenship is in heaven.” Philippians 3:20

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” Colossians 1:13.

As citizens of God’s kingdom we are bound by:

- A common ruler – Jesus.
- A common law – God’s Word.
- And common privileges and responsibilities.

How does someone gain this citizenship?

- You can’t buy it or earn it.
- You must be born into it. You must be born again.

II. The church is a family. Verse 19

“We are members of God’s household.”

- God is our Father. Romans 8:15
- Christ is our brother. Hebrews 2:11, 17
- We are brothers and sisters in Christ.
“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters with absolute purity.”
I Timothy 5:1-2

A family is a place where you can be yourself and find belonging, acceptance and love.
One of the great needs of the church in America is to recover a sense of family.

III. The church is a great building. Verses 20-22

“The church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”

The apostles and prophets established churches everywhere they went.
The church is built upon Jesus Christ and his Word. I Corinthians 3:11

The word Cornerstone has been interpreted in two ways:

- As the chief stone in the foundation.

  “See I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts in him will never be dismayed.” Isaiah 28:16

- As the capstone.

  “What are you O mighty mountain: Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of God bless it! God bless it!” Zechariah 4:7

Either way the point is the same.

- The church is like a building.
- Jesus Christ occupies the most important place. He is the head of the church and he is the foundation of the church.
- We are the building blocks – the living stones. I Peter 2:5
- It is not just any building. It is a holy temple.

We are that holy place where God has chosen to dwell and make himself known.

Conclusion

God’s plan for the church is that we would be his witnesses in this world.

- We are citizens of a new kingdom.
- We belong to a new family.
- We are part of a great building, a holy temple.